

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 XMB-04 OIC-02 /131 W  
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R 270642Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5368

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1917

GENEVA FOR US DELS GATT, MTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, OECD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: FURTHER TEMPORARY  
MEASURES ANNOUNCED.

1. SUMMARY: SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE ON MARCH 24  
ANNOUNCED THREE FURTHER DECISIONS ON REQUESTS FOR TEMPORARY  
IMPORT PROTECTION. TWO CALL FOR RESTRAINTS ON IMPORTS OF  
OPHTHALMIC FRAMES, SUNGLASS FRAMES AND SUNGLASSES BY  
MEANS OF QUOTA RESTRICTIONS AND PRECISION GROUND STEELBALL  
BEARINGS BY MEANS OF TARIFF QUOTAS. THIRD DECISION ACCEPTS  
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY'S (TAA) RECOMMENDATION THAT  
NO ACTION NECESSARY TO RESTRAIN IMPORTS OF CHAIN SAWS AND  
CHAIN SAW ENGINES.

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WM OPTHALMIC FRAMES ETC.

(A) TAA REPORT, ACCORDING TO PRESS RELEASE SHOWS IMPORTS OF SPECTACLE FRAMES NEARLY DOUBLED BETWEEN FY73 AND FY74. SIMILAR TREND EVIDENT IN CASE OF SUNGLASSES. (ACCORDING TO DATA AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY, IMPORTS OF THESE ITEMS FROM US INSIGNIFICANT.)

(B) EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, IMPORTERS WILL BE LIMITED TO QUOTAS BASED ON FY74 LEVELS AS FOLLOWS:

(I) FOR OPTHALMIC FRAMES AND SUNGLASS FRAMES - 75 PERCENT OF FY74 IMPORTS.

(II) FOR SUNGLASSES - 85 PERCENT OF FY74 IMPORTS.

(C) IF RESTRICTIONS CONTINUE BEYOND 12 MONTHS, GROWTH RATE OF 7 PERCENT PER ANNUM BASED ON THESE QUANTITIES WILL BE PERMITTED. QUESTION OF LONG TERM ASSISTANCE TO THIS INDUSTRY IS CURRENTLY SUBJECT OF INQUIRY BY INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (IAC).

### 3. PRECISION GROUND STEEL BALL BEARINGS.

(A) BASED ON TAA FINDING THAT FY74 IMPORTS ROSE 65 PERCENT AND WERE EXPECTED TO RISE BY OVER 200 PERCENT TO 8 MILLION IN FY75, TARIFF QUOTA IMPOSED EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 1975. DURING FY73, LATEST PERIOD FOR WHICH WE HAVE DATA, U.S. SUPPLIED 13 PERCENT (A\$1,185,729) OF TOTAL IMPORTS (A\$9,146,522) OF THIS ITEM.

(B) QUOTA WILL BE 2 MILLION BEARINGS ONLY WITH IMPORTS IN EXCESS THIS AMOUNT SUBJECT TO TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL DUTY OF 20 PERCENT (EXISTING DUTY IS 28 PERCENT).

### 4. CHAIN SAWS AND CHAIN SAW ENGINES.

PRESS RELEASE STATES TAA REPORT SHOWED THAT IMPORTS OF ASSEMBLED CHAIN SAWS RELATIVELY CONSTANT OVER LAST THREE YEARS. TAA THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT IMPORTS NOT REPEAT NOT CAUSE OF SINGLE AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURER'S "DIFFICULTIES IN ACHIEVING MARKET PENETRATION". THREE LOCAL ASSEMBLERS OF CHAIN SAWS HAD NOT SOUGHT ASSISTANCE. IMPORTS FROM U.S. ACCOUNTED FOR 25 PERCENT (A\$862,433) OF TOTAL (A\$3,453,339). CURRENT DUTY RATE IS 32 PERCENT AD VALOREM.  
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